

Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on September 8, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Burnt Prairie post office located in Burnt Prairie, Illinois. The petition for review was filed by Steven L. Whetstone (Petitioner) and is postmarked August 27, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than September 23, 2011.



Ruth Ann Abrams
Acting Secretary

Date: September 12, 2011

Attachment

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

A 2011-67

SEP 2 2011

August 26, 2011

Steven L. Whetstone
Steve's Music Shop
317-319 Church Street
Burnt Prairie, IL 62820

RECEIVED

2011 SEP -7 P 1:56

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

I am exercising my right to appeal the enclosed final determination to close the Burnt Prairie, IL 62820 Post Office.

In addition to the final determination I am also enclosing a personal letter to the Postal Regulatory Commission as well as copies of letters sent to Representative John Shimkus, Senator Mark Kirk, and Senator Richard J. Durbin (they each will receive a copy of the information I am sending you).

I have also enclosed a copy of the petition sent to Sherry Porter, Acting manager of USPS Consumer Affairs, St. Louis, MO.

This is of great importance and I ask that you deny or rescind the determination to close the Burnt Prairie, IL 62820 Post Office.

Thank you for your consideration and help in this matter.



Steven L. Whetstone

August 26, 2011

Steven L. Whetstone
Steve's Music Shop
P. O. Box 49
Burnt Prairie, IL. 62820

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

I invested over \$100,000.00 in 2010 to build a new building and start an e-commerce business. Without the Post Office in Burnt Prairie I would never have started this project. The Burnt Prairie Post Office is vital to the success of my business.

There are days when I only receive and mail 15 to 20 letters and papers. There are also many days when, in addition to that, I also receive and ship packages through the Burnt Prairie Post Office. I will not go to Mill Shoals to mail packages. With the added time and expense to go there it would be easier and more economical for me to use my FedEx account, as I do for my larger boxes. After all, FedEx picks up at my store every day. Even by doing this, it would still add an expense to my operation that I am not sure I could overcome.

I add Delivery Confirmation or Insurance to all my USA packages. This requires me to go to the window. So far during 2011, in addition to shipping all over the USA, I have shipped packages to Canada, Australia, Norway, Japan, and China, all of which the Burnt Prairie Post Office was able to take care of. One day last year I had a package to ship to China. I took it to Mill Shoals one afternoon after the Burnt Prairie Post Office had closed for the day. I was told by the lady there that she did not know how to process an International Package, and that I should take it to Fairfield. Mill Shoals cannot handle my needs.

I have been told by the route carrier that I would not be able to place an outside mail box at my location because the USPS does not deliver to 317 Church Street, Burnt Prairie, IL 62820 (my home) or to 319 Church Street (my business).

For security reasons I do not wish to have packages left in a Mail Box beside the street, especially if it was not at my location. Several of my packages have values much greater than \$500.00.

If things continue like they have the first quarter of 2011, I will spend between \$3,000.00 and \$3,600.00 in this year at the Burnt Prairie Post Office. My business is growing every day, but without the Burnt Prairie Post Office I am very, very concerned about its future.

Steven L. Whetstone



August 26, 2011

Steven L. Whetstone
Steve's Music Shop
317-319 Church Street
Burnt Prairie, IL 62820

Senator Mark Kirk
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kirk

Time is of the utmost importance.

I have exercised my right to appeal, to the Postal Regulatory Commission, the enclosed final determination to close the Burnt Prairie, IL, 62820 Post Office.

In addition to the final determination I am also enclosing a personal letter I have sent to the Postal Regulatory Commission, which I ask you to read.

I have also enclosed a copy of the petition sent to Sherry Porter, Acting manager of USPS Consumer Affairs, St. Louis, MO.

This is of great importance and I ask your help in convincing the Postal Regulatory Commission to deny or rescind the determination to close the Burnt Prairie, IL 62820 Post Office.

Thank you for your consideration and help in this matter.

I will not forget you.

I am also asking Senator Durbin and Representative Shimkus for their help.

Steven L. Whetstone

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven L. Whetstone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

August 26, 2011

Steven L. Whetstone
Steve's Music Shop
317-319 Church Street
Burnt Prairie, IL 62820

Senator Richard J. Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin

Time is of the utmost importance.

I have exercised my right to appeal, to the Postal Regulatory Commission, the enclosed final determination to close the Burnt Prairie, IL, 62820 Post Office.

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Steven L. Whetstone

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve Whetstone', written over a horizontal line.

August 26, 2011

Steven L. Whetstone
Steve's Music Shop
317-319 Church Street
Burnt Prairie, IL 62820
€

Representative John Shimkus
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Shimkus

Time is of the utmost importance.

I have exercised my right to appeal, to the Postal Regulatory Commission, the enclosed final determination to close the Burnt Prairie, IL, 62820 Post Office.

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Steven L. Whetstone

April 28, 2011

Senator Richard J. Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin

The U.S. Postal Service has served notice and held a public hearing for the customers of the Burnt Prairie, IL 62820 Post Office on a proposal to close the post office. It is doing so under provisions of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 and federal law, and over our objections.

Under provisions of the act, the Postal Service is obligated to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. The Postal Service's proposed action will not serve the best interest of our community.

The Postal Service is proposing to close the post office and provide everyone in our area with rural delivery. We do not feel we will be getting the maximum service the Postal Reorganization Act calls for with this type of service. Inconvenience in purchasing stamps, money orders, mailing packages, and in sending accountable mail, such as a certified letter, are among the problems we foresee. The same holds true for the receipt of accountable mail.

Invariably, we will be left with a pick-up notice that will require a 10 mile trip to the post office at a neighboring town for pickup. We also have concerns regarding the sanctity of the mail, the loss of identity for our community, and the impact this would have on our local businesses.

With our own post office we have someone to hear our problems, and take our complaints and compliments.

We appreciate your consideration of our position and any support you can give us in our fight to retain our post office in the same status as now exists. A US Post Office operated by professional postal employees.

Thank you

Sincerely,



Mr. Steven Whetstone
PO Box 49
Burnt Prairie, IL 62820-0049

Sherry Porter
Acting Manager
Consumer Affairs
United States Postal Service
1720 Market Street Room 1015
Saint Louis, MO 63155-9630

We, the citizens and customers of the Burnt Prairie, IL. 62820 Post Office hereby protest any change in the present status of our post office.

It is our desire to retain our post office at its present status. A post office operated by professional employees.

We have many concerns, among them the sanctity and security of the mail and the inconvenience your proposal presents to us in delivering and sending mail, particularly accountable mail. We are especially concerned over what effect your proposed action would have regarding the purchase of postal money orders, insuring mail, and delivery confirmation services. We also believe there would be a negative impact on local business which we rely upon.

The Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 calls for providing a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not financially self-sustaining.

We do not feel your proposals meet these criteria.

Sincerely

Citizens and Customers of the Burnt Prairie, IL 62820 Post Office

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS
4-30-11	Kathleen K. Stallings	
4-30-11	[Signature]	
5-2-11	Garnier Lewis	
5-2-11	Will Lewis	
5-2-11	[Signature]	
5-2-11	Apton Baxter	
5-2-11	Lewis Scrap Metal LLC	
5-2-11	Vickie Lewis	
5-2-11	Joe Morgan	
5-2-11	Jim Lewis Sr.	
5/2/11	Rob Edwards	
5/2/11	[Signature]	

Sherry Porter
Acting Manager
Consumer Affairs
United States Postal Service
1720 Market Street Room 1015
Saint Louis, MO 63155-9630

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Sincerely

Citizens and Customers of the Burnt Prairie, IL 62820 Post Office

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS
4-28-11	Ron Mendenhall	
4-28-11	Royal Young	
4-28-11	Charles Walke	
4-28-11	Jimmy L. Rockett	
4-28-11	Diane Rockett	
4-28-11	Arita Stange	
4-28-11	Terry Green	
4-28-11	Judy Green	
4-28-11	Connie West	
4-28-11	Charles Walke	
4-28-11	Adam Smith	
4-28-11	Melissa Smith	

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Citizens and Customers of the Burnt Prairie, IL 62820 Post Office

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS
4-30	TIM LEWIS JR	
4-30	NANCY KEMPTON	
4-30	Amy White Stone	
4-30	Patricia Short	
5/1/11	Linda Smithers	
5/1/11	Wally Knight	
5/2/11	Roger W. Green	
5/2/11	Lisa Green	
5/4/11	Darlene Winter	

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Acting Manager
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United States Postal Service
1720 Market Street Room 1015
Saint Louis, MO 63155-9630

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Sincerely

Citizens and Customers of the Burnt Prairie, IL 62820 Post Office

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS
5-2-11	Earl Smothers	
5-3-11	Joe Adams	
5-4-11	William R Lewis	
WRL 5-4-11	Lewis Scrap Metal	
5-4-11	James Turner	
5-4-11	Tim Lewis Jr	
5-4-11	Zach Smothers	
5-4-11	Philip Lewis	
5-5-11	Steve's Music Shop	

**Sherry Porter
Acting Manager
Consumer Affairs
United States Postal Service
1720 Market Street Room 1015
Saint Louis, MO 63155-9630**

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[illegible]

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Acting Manager
Consumer Affairs
United States Postal Service
1720 Market Street Room 1015
Saint Louis, MO 63155-9630**

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Sincerely

Citizens and Customers of the Burnt Prairie, IL 62820 Post Office

[illegible]

Date of Posting: 08/20/2011

Date of Removal: 09/21/2011

FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE
THE BURNT PRAIRIE, IL POST OFFICE
AND EXTEND
SERVICE BY RURAL ROUTE SERVICE

DOCKET NUMBER 1356433 - 62820

I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Postal Service is issuing the final determination to close the Burnt Prairie, IL Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by rural route service under the administrative responsibility of the Mill Shoals Post Office, located five miles away.

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on September 30, 2007. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office. Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue.

The office was studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: postmaster vacancy in addition to declining postal needs in the community. Effective and regular service can be provided to the community by alternate means

The Burnt Prairie Post Office, an EAS-55 level, provides service from 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturday and lobby hours of 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Monday - Friday and 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday to 19 post office box or general delivery customers and 76 delivery customers. Retail services included the sale of stamps, stamped paper, and money orders; special services such as Registered Mail, Certified Mail, Insured Mail, COD Mail, and Express Mail services; and the acceptance and dispatch of all classes of mail.

The retail window averaged 13 transaction(s) accounting for 14 minute(s) of retail workload daily. With minimal workload, the Postal Service feels that effective and regular service will be provided by rural route service. Office receipts for the last 3 years were: \$8,890 (23 revenue units) in FY 2008; \$8,057 (21 revenue units) in FY 2009; and \$9,123 (24 revenue units) in FY 2010. There were no permit mailer(s) or postage meter customer(s).

On April 28, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at the Burnt Prairie Post Office to answer questions and provide information to customers. 30 customer(s) attended the meeting.

On April 14, 2011, 24 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the Burnt Prairie Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Burnt Prairie Post Office. 15 questionnaires were returned. Responses regarding the proposed alternate service were as follows: 0 favorable, 11 unfavorable, and 4 expressed no opinion.

A petition supporting the retention of the Burnt Prairie Post Office was received on May 18, 2011, with 70 signatures.

When this final determination is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Mill Shoals Post Office, an EAS-11 level office. Window service hours at the Mill Shoals Post Office are from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. There are 81 post office boxes available.

The proposal to close the Burnt Prairie Post Office was posted with an invitation for comment at the Burnt Prairie Post Office and Mill Shoals Post Office from May 18, 2011 to July 19, 2011. The following additional concerns were received during the proposal posting period:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Concern: | Customer expressed a concern about the inability of the rural carrier to weigh and rate letters and packages. |
| Response: | The rural carrier will accept any letters or packages up to 13 ounces for mailing. The carrier will estimate the cost and provide a receipt for any money received. On the following delivery day the carrier will provide change or a bill for the amount over the estimate. |
| 2. Concern: | Customers asked why their Post Office was being discontinued while others were retained. |
| Response: | Post Offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means. |
| 3. Concern: | Customers suggested cutting management positions from the top down instead of taking services away from customers. |
| Response: | The Postal Service organizational "redesign" is aimed at cutting some 3,000 administrative positions, or almost 21 percent of the total management employees. |
| 4. Concern: | Customers were concerned why the postmaster position was not filled. |
| Response: | All management positions were frozen in anticipation of the reorganization efforts. |
| 5. Concern: | Customers were concerned about a possible address change. |

Response:

Customers may be assigned a 911 address. The new address will continue to use the community name and ZIP Code. Mail will be forwarded in accordance with postal regulations. Change of address forms are available online at usps.com or from the Postal Service to assist customers in notifying correspondents of the change.

6. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about having to travel to another Post Office for service.

Response:

Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

7. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about later delivery of mail.

Response:

The top priority of the Postal Service is to provide mail service in the most efficient manner possible because all of our costs are reflected in postage rates customers must pay. Delivery costs are one of our biggest expenses, so you can be assured that careful thought is given to the structure of each route. A customer's location on a carrier's line of travel determines the time of day mail is delivered. This, of course, precludes providing early delivery of mail to every customer because, no matter how we structure a route, somebody must be last. We do, however, carefully consider the volume of mail for each route so that we can deliver the greatest amount of mail at the earliest possible hour. With the largest fleet of delivery vehicles in the world, to minimize vehicle and fuel expenses we must also pay special attention to energy conservation measures. When the price of gasoline goes up one cent per gallon our total gasoline cost rises more than \$1 million. Therefore, when structuring a route, we must balance our goal to deliver as much mail as possible as early as possible with the need to minimize the travel distance a route must cover. We do regret the inconvenience to customers who would like, but cannot receive, early mail delivery. For those customers we offer alternative delivery services, such as Post Office box service that provide access to their mail earlier and throughout the day.

8. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about obtaining accountable mail and large parcels.

Response:

If the customer lives less than one-half mile from the line of travel, the carrier will attempt delivery of accountable items and large parcels to the customer's residence. If the customer lives over one-half mile away or is not home when delivery is attempted, a notice will be left in the mailbox. Large parcels will be left outside the mailbox or at a location designated by the customer (if authorized by the customer), or a notice will be left in the mailbox. Attempted delivery items will be taken back to the Post Office. Customers may pick up the item at the Post Office or request redelivery online at usps.com or by calling 1-800-ASK-USPS.

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry:

1. **Concern:**

Customers asked why their post office was being discontinued while others were retained

Response:

The customer asked why the post office was being discontinued while others were retained. Post offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.

2. **Concern:**

Customers expressed concern about misdelivered mail

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about misdelivered mail. The concern about misdelivery has been brought to the attention of the administrative postmaster. The Postal Service regrets any inconvenience that customers have experienced because of misdelivery. We consider misdelivered mail a very serious problem and appreciate when customers report this to us since it provides an opportunity to take corrective action.

3. **Concern:**

Customers stated a the notice mailed to customers omitted the place and time of the community meeting

Response:

The customer were concerned about the original notices placed in customers boxes omitted the place and time of the community meeting. A notice was posted in the Post Office lobby with the date, time and place of the meeting. Additionally, all customers should have received a revised copy of the letter on the following day. The Postal Service apologizes for the omission. Any customer who has comments or concerns to express is urged to convey them to Post Office Review Coordinator.

4. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about a change of address

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about a change in address. Customers will be assigned a 911 address. The new address will continue to use the community name. Mail will be forwarded in accordance with postal regulations, and change of address forms are available from the Postal Service to assist customers in notifying correspondents of the change.

5. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier

Response:

The customer were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier, retail services provided at the post office are available from the carrier. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Special services such as certified, registered, Express Mail, delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, and COD may be obtained from the carrier by leaving a note in the mailbox, along with the appropriate payment. The carrier will provide the services that day and leave a customer receipt in the mailbox on the next delivery day. Customers may also print thier own postage (often for discounted rates) with tracking and insurance at usps.com and have the carrier pick the items up.

6. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier

Response:

The customer were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier, retail services provided at the post office are available from the carrier. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Listed below are some services available from the carrier and how to obtain them.

PURCHASING STAMPS BY MAIL

The Stamps by Mail Program provides customers the opportunity to purchase stamps, envelopes, and postal cards by using Form 3227-R, Stamp Purchase Order (Rural), available from the post office or the carrier. Commemorative stamps and stamp collecting products are also available. The customer addresses the postage paid order form envelope, encloses payment by personal check or postal money order made payable to the US Postal Service, and mails the form (postage-free) or leaves it in the mailbox for the carrier to pick up. Most orders are processed overnight, and some immediately.

PURCHASING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS

Customers may purchase money orders by meeting the carrier at the mailbox, completing an application, and paying the carrier (in cash) the price of the money order, plus the fee. The carrier gives the customer a receipt for the application. The money order is completed when the carrier returns to the post office, and a money order receipt is left in the

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about the limited hours of operation at the post office. Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue. If workload increases, hours may increase.

12. Concern:

You were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about having to travel to another post office for service. Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.

Some advantages of the proposal are:

1. The rural and contract carriers may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience.
2. Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail.
3. Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.
4. CBUs can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers.
5. Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees.
6. Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail.

Some disadvantages of the proposal are:

1. ~~The loss of a retail outlet and a postmaster position in the community. Retail services may be provided by the rural or contract delivery carrier.~~
2. Meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier at the box to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions.
3. A change in the mailing address. The community name will continue to be used in the new address. A carrier route address will be assigned.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service concludes this final determination will provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community.

II. EFFECT ON COMMUNITY

Burnt Prairie is an unincorporated community located in WHITE County. The community is administered politically by Burnt Prairie Village Board. Police protection is provided by the White County Sheriff. Fire protection is provided by the Fairfield Rural Fire Protection. The community is comprised of Farmers/Retirees and those who commute to work at nearby communities and may work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: Liberty Baptist Church, Lewis Scrap Metal, Steve's Music Shop, Whetstone Food Mart, and Burnt Prairie Fertilizer. Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Burnt Prairie Post Office will be available at the Mill Shoals Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Mill Shoals Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry:

1. Concern:

Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about the loss of the Communities' identity. A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the Post Office name in addresses and in the National Five-Digit ZIP Code and Post Office Directory.

2. Concern:

Customers felt the loss of a post office would have a detrimental effect on the business community

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about the detrimental effect the loss of the post office would have on the community. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the Post Office community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the post office is discontinued.

3. **Concern:**

Customers felt the loss of a post office would have a detrimental effect on the business community

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about the detrimental effect the loss of the post office would have on the community. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the Post Office community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the post office is discontinued.

4. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about mail security

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about the security of mail. Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.

5. **Concern:**

Customers felt the loss of a Post Office would have a detrimental effect on the business community.

Response:

Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There has been no indication that the business community has been adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

6. **Concern:**

Customers felt the loss of a Post Office would have a detrimental effect on the business community.

Response:

Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There has been no indication that the business community has been adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

7. **Concern:**

Customers questioned the economic savings of the proposed discontinuance.

Response:

Carrier service can be and, in this case, is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and a postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an annual savings with this change. Lease termination will be coordinated by Facilities.

8. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about growth in the community.

Response:

The growth of a community does not depend on the location of a Post Office. Based on information obtained by the Postal Service, it was determined that there has been minimal growth in the area in recent years. Carrier service will be able to accommodate future growth.

9. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about senior citizens

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about senior citizens. Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes or CBUs. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the post office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the administrative postmaster for more information.

VI. SUMMARY

This is the final determination to close the Burnt Prairie, IL Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by rural route service under the administrative responsibility of the Mill Shoals Post Office, located five miles away.

The postmaster retired on September 30, 2007. If the office has a noncareer PMR(s), they may be separated from the Postal Service; however, attempts will be made to reassign the employee(s) to a nearby facility. No other employee(s) will be adversely affected. The mail volume has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by rural route service.

The Burnt Prairie Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 19 PO Box or general delivery customers and 76 delivery route customers. The daily retail window transactions averaged 13. There are no permit mailers or postage meter customers.

There will no longer be a retail outlet in the community. However, delivery and retail services may be available from a rural or contract delivery carrier, which could alleviate the need to travel to a Post Office for service. The Postal Service will save an estimated \$32,464 annually. A disadvantage to some will be in meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions with rural or contract delivery carrier.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service has determined that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and this final determination is warranted.

VII. NOTICES

- A. Support Materials. Copies of all materials upon which this final determination is based are available for public inspection at the Burnt Prairie Post Office and Mill Shoals Post Office during normal office hours.
- B. Appeal Rights. This final determination to close the Burnt Prairie Post Office may be appealed by any person served by that office to the Postal Regulatory Commission at 901 New York Ave NW, Suite 200, Washington DC 20268-0001. Appeals must be received by the Commission within 30 days of the date this final determination is posted. If an appeal is filed, copies of appeal documents prepared by the Postal Regulatory Commission or the parties to the appeal will be made available for public inspection at Burnt Prairie Post Office and Mill Shoals Post Office during normal office hours.



Dean J Granholm
Vice President of Delivery and Post Office Operations

08/19/2011

Date